

Message Text

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APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IR

SUBJECT: DEA ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

REF: (A) STATE 14796; (B) STATE 233134, 10/23/74

1. DURING NOVEMBER 1974 REGIONAL NARCOTICS COORDINATORS CONFERENCE AT NEW DELHI AND PERIODICALLY SINCE DEA ASSIGNED SPECIAL AGENTS TO EMBASSY TEHRAN IN 1972, QUESTION HAS INFORMALLY ARISEN ON THE ROLE OF THESE REPRESENTATIVES. AT THE TIME DEA OFFICE WAS OPENED IN IRAN, IT WAS AGREED THAT EMBASSY AND DEA HEADQUARTERS WOULD KEEP ITS ROLE AND FUNCTION UNDER REVIEW AND RECOMMEND CHANGES AS THEY APPEARED DESIRABLE. IN VIEW OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF REFTTEL (A) THAT THE CHIEF OF MISSION ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE GUIDELINES CONCERNING DEA ACTIVITIES, WE BELIEVE A GENERAL REASSESSMENT OF DEA ACTIVITIES IN IRAN WOULD NOW BE APPROPRIATE AND SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS FIGURE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE REASSESSMENT.

2. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT US IS NOT BEING AFFECTED BY NARCOTIC DRUGS PRODUCED OR PROCESSED IN IRAN, WE ARE AWARE

OF HASHISH TRAFFIC THAT ORIGINATES IN NEPAL, PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, TRANSITS IRAN AND AFFECTS SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH A RESIDUAL AMOUNT REACHING THE UNITED STATES.

3. WITH REGARD TO OPIUM CONTROL, WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE EXCELLENT PRODUCTION CONTROLS IN IRAN AND ITS ABILITY TO PREVENT LEAKAGE INTO THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SUGGEST THAT IRAN, DESPITE ITS SEVERE LAWS, COULD BE USED AS STAGING AREA AND TRANSIT CORRIDOR FOR OPIUM AND MORPHINE BASE IN AN EAST TO WEST TRAFFIC OUT OF PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN AND POSSIBLY INDIA. SHOULD THIS TRAFFIC DEVELOP TO A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL, IT COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE US. THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR USG, THROUGH DEA REPRESENTATIVES AT TEHRAN, TO FOLLOW THIS POTENTIAL THREAT CLOSELY AND AT FIRST HAND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE HAVE LONG RECOGNIZED THAT IRAN'S INTEREST AND POSITION ON NARCOTIC CONTROL HAVE BEEN SIMILAR TO THOSE OF USG, PARTICULARLY IN ILLICIT TRAFFIC SUPPRESSION. WE ALSO ARE AWARE THAT IRAN, THROUGH ITS TWO INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES, THE NATIONAL POLICE AND GENDARMERIE, HAS WELL EQUIPPED, TRAINED, AND ACTIVE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND THAT AS EARLY AS 1957 IRAN SENT NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TRAINING BY FBN AND BNDD, WHICH DEA NOW IS CONTINUING AND INCREASING UNDER CCINC AUSPICES. ALSO, MANY OF THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES DEVELOPED AT THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, ICPO-INTERPOL, AND CENTO REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCES RESULTED FROM IRAN'S LEADERSHIP, SIDE BY SIDE WITH USG, TO ACHIEVE OUR JOINT OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING THE ILLICIT NARCOTIC TRAFFIC AND DRUG ABUSE.

5. OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN IRAN SHOULD BE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE LIAISON. THE GOI SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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AWARE THAT DEA PERSONNEL, AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DESIGNATED US AGENCY UNDER ARTICLE 35 OF THE 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND MANDATE TO ASSIST IRANIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES AT THEIR REQUEST IN DEVELOPING NARCOTIC INVESTIGATIONS IN THE TRAFFIC AFFECTING THE USA.

6. WE HOPE GOI KNOWS THAT DEA PERSONNEL ARE ACCREDITED IN 35 COUNTRIES AND THAT DEA'S COOPERATION WITH THE NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT UNITS OF THOSE COUNTRIES, BY EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND ASSISTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THOSE COUNTRIES AS BEING IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST. AS A RESULT OF THESE

RELATIONSHIPS, SOME DATING BACK MORE THAN 39 YEARS AND
BASED ON EARLIER MULTILATERAL TREATIES, DEA IS IN AN

EXCELLENT POSITION TO PROVIDE THE GOI ENFORCEMENT UNITS
WITH BOTH ACTIONABLE AND STRATEGIC NARCOTIC INTELLIGENCE
WHICH IRAN CAN USE TO ITS ADVANTAGE, AS WELL AS OURS, TO
ENHANCE ITS INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC SUPPRESSION EFFORT.

7. WE SEE NO NEED AT THIS TIME TO PRESS THE NATIONAL
POLICE OR GENDARMERIE INTO ENLISTING THE ACTIVE OPERA-
TIONAL ASSISTANCE OF TEHRAN-BASED DEA REPRESENTATIVES
UNLESS IRANIANS DESIRE SUCH ASSISTANCE IN SPECIFIC
INVESTIGATIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. DEA REPS ARE EXPECTED
TO EXCHANGE NARCOTIC INFORMATION AND ASSIST POLICE AND
GENDARMERIE NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT ELEMENTS ONLY TO EXTENT
AND MANNER THESE SERVICES WISH. THE EXTENT AND EFFEC-
TIVENESS OF THIS TYPE COOPERATION DEVELOPS SLOWLY. DEA
EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT IN TIME HOST COUNTRY NARCOTIC
ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BEGIN TO APPRECIATE TIMELY INFOR-
MATION PROVIDED THROUGH DEA WORLDWIDE NETWORK, ENABLING
THEM TO EFFECT IMPORTANT NARCOTIC ARRESTS AND SEIZURES.
FOLLOWING THIS, DEA REPS ARE OFTEN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS THEIR
EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE BECOMES MORE RECOGNIZED AND
ACCEPTED. THIS IN TURN TENDS TO INCREASE AND SOLIDIFY
COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OVERALL. AS HOST COUNTRY AUTHORITIES
BECOME AWARE OF THE ILLICIT NARCOTIC TRAFFIC RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRY AND THE U.S., AND OF NEED AND
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MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR JOINT REPRESSION, COOPERATIVE
INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY INCREASES.

8. DEA HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPRESS UPON ALL OF ITS FOREIGN
AND DOMESTIC OFFICES THE DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING THE
TRANSMITTAL TO THE IRANIANS VIA DEA TEHRAN OF ALL PERTI-
MENT DATA RELATIVE TO INSTANCES WHERE IRANIAN NARCOTICS
VIOLATORS COME TO OUR ATTENTION. THE FACT WE ARE
ENCOUNTERING AN INCREASING INCIDENCE OF IRANIAN NATIONALS
INVOLVED IN THE HEROIN, MORPHINE BASE AND HASHISH TRAFFIC
IN WESTERN EUROPE (PARTICULARLY GERMANY) AFFECTING THE
U.S. IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN WHETHER OR NOT THE DRUGS
ORIGINATE IN OR TRANSIT IRAN. THIS ADDS TO THE NEED AT
THIS TIME TO ENSURE THAT DEA LIAISON AND COOPERATIVE
ENDEAVORS IN IRAN WITH HOST COUNTRY COUNTERPARTS ARE AS
COMPLETE AND VIABLE AS POSSIBLE.

9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE
AND ITS SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF OUR TOTAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT IN RESPECT TO IRAN,
NOTABLY INCLUDING THE DEA PRESENCE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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